

## **Shamokin Area Annex/Elementary Schools Health Services**

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### **FOR YOUR INFORMATION**

The school nurse is an experienced professional, who, with other school personnel, plans and implements a total school health program. Our goals are to assist each student to achieve his or her maximum potential to learn and grow. The school nurse assists your child in maintaining good health by providing care for illness and injury as it occurs in school, counseling students, staff and parents about health matters and educating students and staff about health concerns. The school nurse assures compliance with the following state law which requires:

Basic physical exam upon original entry (K4/Kindergarten usually)

Grade 6 & 11

Basic dental exam upon original entry (K4/Kindergarten usually)

Grade 3 & 7

Vision screening

All grades annually

Hearing screening

Grades K, 1, 2, 3, 7, 11 and special education students

Height & weight measurement

All grades annually

Body Mass Index (BMI) for age percentile

K4 through 12

Scoliosis screening

Grades 6 & 7

Health records

Kept current with regard to height and weight, vision,  
hearing, immunizations and pertinent health history

School nurses are not qualified or permitted to make a medical diagnosis. Nurses can advise whether medical care may be needed, render first aid and care for minor illnesses occurring during the school day. Seriously ill or injured students are transported by ambulance whenever necessary. Parents must provide transportation in situations which are not of a serious nature. Please be sure emergency cards are filled in completely, including available alternatives if we should be unable to contact the parents. Please notify the nurse of any changes during the year.

## **WHAT ARE SOME MAJOR RESPONSIBILITIES OF THE SCHOOL NURSE?**

### **Health Appraisals:**

Maintain a health chart for each student which includes health history, results of vision, hearing, scoliosis screening, immunization records, height & weight measurement, BMI calculations, physical and dental exams. Also maintains an individual illness card which notes student visits to the nurse's office.

### **Counseling:**

Reports health conditions to parents, makes recommendations to school staff and refers the student and family to a physician or dentist when necessary.

### **Administers Medications:**

Special medication that must be given to students during school hours will be administered only with written permission from physician and parents. Medication is to be brought to school in a properly labeled bottle which must include medication name, dose, time, prescription number, and physician. Medication forms can be obtained from the school nurse or a physician's note is an appropriate substitute. A sufficient supply (one week's supply) of the medication should be brought to school. If at all possible students should not be bringing medication to and from school on a daily basis. It is important that all medication be dispensed from the Nurse's office. This is for the safety of all students. Non-aspirin pain reliever, an antacid, cough or throat lozenge will be administered only if there is a signed emergency card on file with parental permission given.

### **First Aid:**

First aid will be given to injuries and illnesses **occurring during school**. Injuries and illnesses that occur at home should be cared for at home.

Please feel free to contact the Annex at 570-648-4944, extension 1109 or the Elementary at 570-648-5721, extension 2716 with any health questions or concerns.

## **Immunization Requirements:**

Children in ALL grades (K4-12) need the following **immunizations for attendance**:

- ~ 4 doses of tetanus\* (1 dose on or after 4<sup>th</sup> birthday)
- ~ 4 doses of diphtheria\* (1 dose on or after 4<sup>th</sup> birthday)
- ~ 4 doses of polio
- ~ 2 doses of measles\*\*
- ~ 2 doses of mumps\*\*
- ~ 2 doses of rubella\*\* (German measles)
- ~ 3 doses of hepatitis B
- ~ 2 doses of varicella (chickenpox) or evidence of immunity

7<sup>th</sup> Grade ADDITIONAL immunization requirements:

- ~ 1 dose meningococcal conjugate vaccine (MCV)
- ~ 1 dose of tetanus, diphtheria, acellular pertussis (Tdap)  
(if 5 years have elapsed since last tetanus immunization)

\* Usually given as DTaP or DT or Td

\*\* Usually given as MMR

## **Guidelines for Student “SICK DAYS”:**

Children with temperatures of 100 degrees or higher should stay home from school. They should not return until they have a normal temperature for 24 hours.

Children taking an antibiotic prescribed by their doctor for contagious diseases (i.e.: strep throat, bronchitis) should not return to school until they have taken the medication for 24 hours.

Children who are vomiting or have diarrhea should also stay home.